74886 DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2073
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

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SAIGON FOR ASST. SECY. ABSHIRE

SUBJ: PRESS GUIDANCE

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

REF: NEW DEL HI 13468

- 1. WHILE NEWS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ABSHIRE'S VISIT NOT YET PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, IT WILL SHORTLY BECOME SO AND LIKELY SET OFF PRESS SPECULATION, COMING AS IT DOES ON HEELS OF SENATOR KENNEDY'S TOUR AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON AID TO PAKISTAN.
- 2. WE PLAN TO LOW-KEY VISIT, ISSUING ROUTINE PRESS RELEASE POINTING OUT THAT VISIT IS PART OF TOUR OF MANY POSTS AND THAT MAJOR FOCUS HERE WILL BE ON REFUGEE RELIEF.
- 3. ASSUME ASSISTANT SECRETARY DOES NOT DESIRE NEWS CONFER-ENCE. PRESS WILL ASK FOR ONE, BUT IN VIEW PRESENT EMOTIONAL ATMOSPHERE, RESULT LIKELY TURN OUT UNPROFITABLE. (LIKELY FIRST QUESTION: DO YOU AGREE WITH SENATOR KENNEDY THAT PAKISTAN IS COMMITTING GENOCIDE?)
- 4. AS ALTERNATIVE, SUGGEST 8:30 AM SEPTEMBER 2 OFF-THE-

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EDITORS AT PAO'S RESIDENCE.

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